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INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A2g

COUNTRY Iraq

DATE DISTR. 26 November 1948

SUBJECT Istiqlal and Communist Parties

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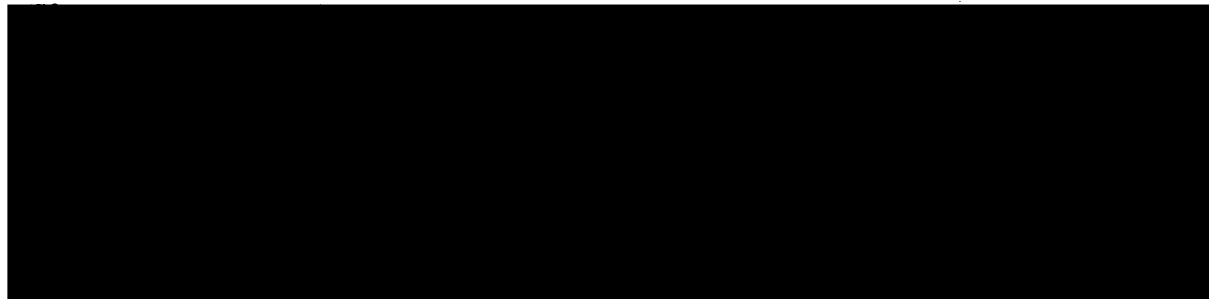
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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A2g
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- 25X1A6a 1. Informant states that the present secretary of the Istiqlal Party, Siddiq Shanshal, is the most influential and powerful member of that party. In the opinion of informant he is a "dangerous fanatic and firebrand." 25X1A2g
Comment. Although information contained in [redacted] indicated that Faig Sammarie was the leading spirit of the Party, it is thought probable that the above-reported information is the more correct. 25X1A2g
2. Although informant indicated that the Communist Party in Iraq was numerically superior to the Istiqlal Party, he felt that party enrollment did not reflect true strength in either case, as the real strength of either party lay in its ability to appeal to the present widespread discontent existing in the country. In the opinion of informant, the Istiqlal Party is stronger in this respect, because of its superior propaganda outlets. 25X1A6a
This probably refers to newspapers as propaganda outlets.) Comment.
3. Informant claims that the Istiqlal Party has a substantial following in the army, which would be extended to include a majority of the military forces if the army were to attempt to take over the government of Iraq. According to informant, the government is fearful of the consequences of bringing back to Iraq any army units now in Palestine. 25X1A6a
4. According to another informant, Arkady Savarov, Second Secretary of the Soviet Legation in Baghdad, stated that the Communist Party had no interest at present in increasing its membership, but that the Party's sole objective was to create and support civil disorders. Comment. If, therefore, any disorders should be instigated by the Istiqlal Party, they would probably receive the backing of the Communist Party, despite differences in ideologies.)

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Next Review Date: 2000

Document No. 003

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

Auth: DDA Memo 4 Apr 77

Date: 12 MAY 1978 By: 011

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